

THE PACIFIC
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THE "BULLETIN'S" LAW.

The galaxy of legal stars which supplies the editorial matter of the *Daily Bulletin* has found a mares-nest. We shall extend our pity to the man who follows the advice given by that paper in regard to the payment of duties on imported goods, and tries to force the Collector-General to accept silver instead of gold. He will, after much trouble and expense, get nothing but his fill of vexation and disappointment. And then his editorial legal advisors will laugh at him. They mean nothing but a political trick. Their dishonesty in this matter is plain to be seen in the three stars (emblems of the aforesaid galaxy) by which they garble the quotation from Section 5, Chap. XLIII. of the Session Laws of 1876, which appears in their article of Monday last. The section declares the use which may be legally made of "gold and silver coins other than those of the United States." As their value as fixed by the King in Privy Council they are made legal tender "in payment of Government dues, duties and taxes at the Exchequer." The three words we have italicized are those omitted by the *Daily Bulletin* in the quotation above referred to. Import duties are not payable at the Exchequer, and the act is very explicit in section 8, that "all duties paid on imports shall be paid in gold coin of the United States or its equivalent." By means of its false quotation of Section 5, the *Daily Bulletin* tries to make its readers believe that these duties are payable in gold and silver coins other than those of the United States.

To back up this dishonest argument it brings in another which is merely stupid. It claims that under the authority of Section 5, the Privy Council has made silver coins—Hawaiian and others—the equivalent of United States gold coins. The act by Section 5 only allows the Privy Council authority to fix the values at which coins other than those of the United States may be tendered in payment of private debts and to the Government at the Exchequer. It gives the Council no authority to fix any value on United States gold coin, that being itself the supreme standard of value. The Privy Council chose to fix the values of foreign coins other than those of the United States, in terms of American half dollars, and therefore did not pretend to say what their value was in regard to American gold coins. True, it prefaced its schedule with a valuation of United States gold eagles, half-eagles, etc., in silver half dollars; but as it never had any authority to do so, this part of the schedule is void and worthless, the action of the Privy Council in regard to it being plainly *ultra vires*. The meaning of the Act and of the resolutions of the Privy Council as to foreign coins and Hawaiian silver coins is perfectly plain. These coins are legal tender wherever or whenever the United States silver half dollar is so. That coin is, by Section 8, prohibited from being received at the Custom House for import duties, and with it all the coins valued in silver half dollars by the Privy Council are rendered useless for this particular purpose.

In a former article the *Bulletin* tried to evade the force of the judgment of the Supreme Court on this subject by quibbling on the word "par," displaying the editor's ignorance of the meaning of that word, which is but a substitute for "equivalent." If the *Bulletin* wants to get a decision of the Court as to whether it is right, or we are, in this matter, we hope it will, (instead of trying to fool some hapless importer into trying to bounce the Collector-General into taking silver coin for import duties,) appeal at once to those patriots—Messrs. Dole, Castle, Smith and Hartwell, and get them to have the question as to what is "United States gold or its equivalent" tried again at their own expense.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

The action of the United States Government in evincing a disposition to take up in earnest the Nicaragua

Canal matter has provoked a warm discussion among the journalistic writers of the Pacific Coast as to the propriety of such action. We have not learned from the State Department of the disposition to be made of the \$250,000 asked of Congress, but the unanimity of the vote of the Senate, in executive session, is the best possible security to the public of the validity and merit of the appropriation asked for, and the security for a proper expenditure of the money. For our part, we can see no impropriety of the United States Government acquiring large interests in the Nicaragua Canal; on the contrary, we would be pleased to see it constructed by that Government, and thus made free to American ships. But the concession forbids its transfer to any foreign Government, and unless Nicaragua permits the change, any control which the United States Government may obtain, must be obtained through the Company, as England has done at Suez.

We dislike to observe also, the untruthful statements of some of the Coast papers as to the Republic of Nicaragua. A finer or more fertile country does not exist on the face of the globe, and we may also assert, a more prosperous country, so far as her limited development can make it prosperous. Absolutely without debt, and with an annual surplus revenue of about \$1,000,000, which is increasing yearly, and which is being used in the construction of railroads owned by the Government, to be operated for the benefit of the people, Nicaragua can well afford to disregard such statements as to her condition, resources, and financial responsibility. The Pacific Coast and adjacent countries need an inter-oceanic canal very badly, and suffer intensely in a commercial sense for the want of it. Consequently no honest friend will endeavor to make public opinion against it by raising false reports and by attacking the status of a friendly Republic, which, with the other four Central American Republics, are officially inviting the American Government to join them in constructing this work. Even two canals can do no harm, and it is evidently the true policy of America to have an inter-oceanic canal under American control. This is well known to be the policy of Mr. Blaine and an integral principle of the Monroe doctrine. Consequently when Democratic papers assail the Administration, which they assert has done nothing in the direction of upholding American rights abroad, for taking a stand in favor of an American canal, they show their political animus at such a disadvantage to themselves, that the average American voter will be enabled to readily decide which policy should receive his support. Neither can the Panama project make capital for itself by such assertions, and it must be in desperate straits when such press telegrams as we have seen in the last foreign papers are necessary. If its own position is so secure, and construction at Panama so assured, why does it fear the Nicaragua Canal? Let the reader suggest the reply.

MEN, NOT MEASURES.

Now that the legislative session is drawing to a close, we wonder if the Opposition ever takes a retrospective glance, and reflects upon what it might have accomplished, and upon what it has left undone. In every Government under the sun there is material for a good, healthy Opposition to work upon. Popular feeling is nearly always with that faction which is antagonistic to the Government. There is so much to be said against the men in power—so many holes to be detected—so many things to be held up to the scorn of the public—that the Opposition really has the softest thing in the political orchestra. But it must have brains. An Opposition which is intellectually inferior to the power it fights, which has not in its ranks men who are mentally the peers of the foe they attack, no matter what little stir it may make in its incipency, inevitably becomes weak and farcical. Where this Opposition has made a dismal failure in its assault upon men, and not measures, was Mr. Gibson who was the red rag that led them on. In their malignant thrusts at the Minister of Foreign Affairs, they forgot that they should have calmly and intelligently laid before the people the abuses they claimed had an ex-

istence in this Government, and passed over the individual Gibson altogether. They bungled the entire business. With one half-smart leader, one man of energy, moderation, and political sense, the Opposition might have made a record. That leader could have told them of the folly of making one man the objective point, and would have shown them assailable matters which not one of the dull-witted crowd could have ever dropped on. Personal spite has ruined the Opposition. Could it have divested itself of this heavy burden, it would have retained the sympathy it had at the start. Could it have kept hammering away at the measures, and not allowed its narrow-minded acidity to leak out on the individual, it would have obtained some respect as a political movement. As it is, it has hardly risen to the dignity of a dog-pit, where the terrier with the sharpest teeth, and longest wind comes out ahead.

A LARGE SCHEME.

A story is published in Washington by George H. Butler, to the effect that ex-Governor Warmouth of Louisiana and the Lorillards of New York have formed a syndicate to purchase Cuba for \$100,000,000 and to use it for a sugar and tobacco plantation. The Rothschilds are to guarantee the purchase money, which is to be paid \$20,000,000 down and the rest in installments of \$5,000,000 yearly. Ex-Governor Warmouth, August Belmont, S. L. M. Barlow, Pierre Lorillard, Leland Stanford, James Gordon Bennett and John Mackay are named as members of the syndicate. It is to conduct its affairs like the old East India Company. The United States will be asked to modify the Chinese immigration law so as to admit Chinese laborers to Cuba and to keep out other immigrants with patent gunboats. It will be asked to keep small garrisons in the principal towns. The company will maintain an armed constabulary, 1500 strong, made up of ex-Confederates enlisted for five years, at the end of which time the island is to be so peaceful and prosperous that they will be superfluous. In return for aiding its moral and material prosperity, after ten years Cuba is to be turned over to the United States. As part of the bargain, the Federal Government is to pay the remaining \$30,000,000, the syndicate retaining enough of the best sugar and tobacco lands to reimburse it with profit.

It is asserted that John Russell Young has been offered \$25,000 a year to act as general factor for the syndicate; that George C. Gorham is to take his place if he cannot serve; and that Pinchback of Louisiana is to act as Governor of the negro population. Warmouth is said to have planned and worked up the scheme. He is said to have secured the approval of the President and Secretary Chandler, but to have found Frelinghuysen less willing to see that the consummation of the scheme would reflect glory on the Administration. Warmouth is said to have had the scheme in view in going abroad. He is coming back in November, when, it is said, active work will begin.

THE "BULLETIN'S" BAD QUARTERS.

The *Bulletin*, Friday evening, contained a comment on the refusal of the Registrar of Accounts to redeem Mexican quarters. As a matter of fact, Mr. Frank Pratt was approached by a youth who had a collection of perforated, worn, and debased coin, and who wanted good money in exchange therefor. He very properly refused the money, because the intention of the Act is not to call in all the vagabond coin in the Kingdom—money which even the Chinese storekeepers will not accept at half its face-value. If this coin were to be taken at its face value, it would be an encouragement to the Chinese, who are notorious in this connection, to squeeze a small percentage of the currency. This Government is quite willing to keep in perfect harmony with the Currency Act, but it is not called upon to submit to a manifest imposition. Now, by the way, all these bad quarters came from the *Bulletin* office, where they had been paid in as subscriptions to that ingenious and marvelously indecent sheet. We regret that the *Bulletin's* consideration for the future of these

Islands should be imperilled for the satisfaction of passing off a few bad quarters on the Treasury.

THE TRUTH REVEALED.

We believe in a respectable political fight, but we loathe with utter abhorrence a cowardly contest. We know of no fouler onslaught on a man than the pamphlet assailing Mr. Gibson, entitled the "Shepherd of Lanai." It was published by the *Saturday Press*, first in its columns and then in pamphlet form. It can be found for sale on Mr. Thurum's counters at any time. But the malice of the publication was not confined to issuing the pamphlet. It is sent broadcast to every new-comer as a proof of the Christian charity and love of God which the *Press* constantly claims for itself. It is sown broadcast in the United States, as will be seen by the following quotation from the *Universe*, published in San Francisco and forwarded here by the *Mariposa* mail:

"A Shepherd Saint—A brochure, entitled 'The Shepherd Saint of Lanai,' has been distributed among the newspaper offices of this city. It comes from Honolulu, and contains a lot of venerable slanders against Walter Murray Gibson, the Hawaiian Premier. It will do Mr. Gibson no harm. So long as he is on the side of the 'Lord' and the Kanakas, his splendid intellect—an oasis in the Hawaiian desert of ignorance—will rule the destinies of the ocean kingdom. Gibson is a gentleman and a scholar, which is more than can be said of any of his defamers—the howling dervishes of Hawaii."

Mr. Gibson never pays attention to personal attacks, but we think it is about time that he took some steps to punish those who so wilfully, malignantly and infamously assail his personal character.

REMEINY.

Last night this great artist made his initial bow to a Honolulu audience. No one ever came in contact with him without learning to worship his genius, and it is not many years ago since Henry Watterson devoted three columns of editorial to the great maestro in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Angel's visits are few and far between. This is one. And now our readers will be lenient if we give them a little paper talk about Remenyi. The greatest critics in the world have taken their pens in their hands and faltered before they wrote about him. It requires a German *geistesbildung* and a huge *geisteschwung* to speak to him properly. By this we mean that to talk about so great a virtuoso as Edouard Remenyi it requires cultivation of the mind and mental enthusiasm. He has been decorated by seven different monarchs and he stands to-day as simple and utterly untouched with pride as the smallest scholar in our public schools. There are many men, musicians and artists, who cannot bear to hear Remenyi play for any length of time when his soul is in a sad mood. He wrenches irrepressible tears out of hearts that before never cared for music. Understanding the difference between the homage that is paid to God and the respect that is paid to "His Worship the Mayor," thousands upon thousands of men can be found who worship Remenyi. No one even heard him play without feeling that he was listening to an artist who was sent as a messenger to soften and touch the soul. Just as he can be infinitely tender in his playing, so he is utterly fearless and even aggressive at times in his art. His Raccosky march is probably the most difficult, exhaustive and violent example of violin playing ever heard. There are no limits to the possibilities of Remenyi. He will play "Way down upon the Swanee River" so choked with exquisite harmony that it is painful to listen to him, and then feeling that his tones are hurting his listener he will break into a merry Cachuca or War Dance, that will make the hearer as gay as he was sad before. If we take his contemporaries, Joachim, Vieuxtemps, Sivori, Ole Bull, Wilhelmj and other great *maestros* we find the element lacking in them all which Remenyi possesses.

THE recent dynamite exhibition in England has called attention to a matter which, sooner or later, will lead to trouble. Good-for-nothing loafers, politicians and agitators have made the United States their rendezvous in which to carry on their general cussedness, for there is no other term to be applied to such men as the great Irish agitators, who are simply nothing more or less than gutter-snipe rowdies. At the same time the United States Government has followed this class of material without daring to put anything in their way, for the very simple reason that the rum element controls the local politics of a large proportion of the cities and towns, and so long as these people do not absolutely overstep the law then so long they are tolerated, and their actions are allowed. It goes without saying that there is no execution of the law in the United States whenever any political clique is implicated and threatened; and this is just one of the cases wherein this class of material finds plenty of latitude. If the United States authorities had any respect for themselves they would promptly bring these braggarts to some place that would stop them; but, as it is, they shall undoubtedly allow the thing to drift on, until the parcel of men who are virtually mere outcasts will make trouble, and then there will be a grand pow-wow. Instead of being a land of liberty, it is a land where a congregation of the criminal, pauper, and worthless element congregate for the benefit of a parcel of worse than worthless politicians and Government office-holders. Words fail to properly express the condemnation which should follow these people, whereas they really receive Government approval indirectly. If a few Phoenix Park affairs could occur on that side of the water it might awaken the short-lived politician; but it is doubtful if even dynamite would awake him unless it should injure his personal property. Nothing can awaken his care for the interest over which he is supposed to preside.

In the first canto of "The Conversion," published in these columns a few days ago—a poem which, when completed, will probably be given to the public in book form—we regret that the subjoined foot-note was inadvertently omitted. However, it is instructive reading at any time, and particularly when a dreadful epidemic is striding westward, and the physicians of two hemispheres are advising people to abstain, as far as possible, from mingling with pestilential atmospheres. The omitted note is as follows:

The learned author of "Isis unveiled" (vol. ii, pp. 610, 611), says: "In India, as well as Russia and some other countries, there is an instinctive repugnance to stepping across a man's shadow, especially if he have red hair; and in the former country natives are extremely reluctant to shake hands with persons of another race. These are not idle fancies. Every person emits a magnetic exhalation or aura, and a man may be in perfect physical health, but at the same time his exhalation may have a morbid character for others sensitive to such subtle influences. * * * The magnetism of a red-haired man, we have found, in almost every nation, is instinctively dreaded. We might quote proverbs from the Russian, Persian, Georgian, Hindustani, French, Turkish, and even German, to show that treachery and other vices are popularly supposed to accompany the rufous complexion. When a man stands exposed to the sun, the magnetism of that luminary causes his emanations to be projected toward the shadow, and increased molecular action develops more electricity." Hence argues Blavatsky, it is imprudent to come in too close contact or pass through the shadow of a red-haired man. It is not mentioned that the danger is mitigated by closely shaving the rufous covering of the scalp.

The following petition to the Assembly from members of the Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society is lying at Mr. Jaeger's office for signature: "To the Honorable the Nobles and Representatives in the Legislature of the Kingdom assembled: The undersigned, members of the Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society, beg respectfully to submit to your

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